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SCIENTIFIC ORDER OF BATTLE : U.S.S.R.
THE OBERSPREE WERK (O.S.W.) IN BERLIN

no date

SUMMARY: The Obersprecwerk is a large establishment devoted to the design of thermionic valves and signals equipment. Its work on the design of valves and preparation for their manufacture in Russia is probably fundamental to Russian signals development, especially in Radar and ultra short wave communications. The organization of the O.S.W. on October 21st 1946, is described; deportations to Russia on that date are noted, but insufficient information is available to clarify Russian policy concerning deportations from O.S.W.

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1. INTRODUCTORY.

. gave an account of the organization which the Russian Ministry for the Electrotechnical Industry has set up in Berlin for the exploitation of the German Industry. Attention was called to two branches of the organization which had been set up in the same premises at Berlin-Oberschöneweide, Ostendstr 1-5, formerly an A.E.G. factory. These were respectively the LKVO under STEIMEL, specialising in work on thermionic valves, and the MEF under KLUGE, working on signals problems.

These two groups were later amalgamated and have grown to become one of the largest organizations maintained by the MEP in Berlin; the organization has been known for some time as the OBER-SPREEWERK (OSW).

This paper summarises the intelligence available concerning the O.S.W. and sets out its structure and organization, so far as it is known to us, on October 21st, 1946, the date on which the first large scale deportations of German technicians to Russia took place. Some remarks on the deportations of staff from the works are also included.

2. THE ORGANIZATION ON OCTOBER 21st, 1946.

Good intelligence is available on the organization of the works, from which a series of charts has been drawn up to show the structure of the various departments. (Charts 1 - 10). On the Russian side, the works are controlled by Lt.Col. BOLDYR, a physicist and technical expert, and Major WILDGRUBE, the administrative chief. A number of other Russians have been identified, of whom details are given in an appended list.

The German technicians are under the control of Dr. STEIMEL as technical director; Dr. SPIEGEL appears also to have the standing of a director. The works is divided into eight departments, shown diagrammatically in Chart I, in which the numbering of the departments is that used officially by the works. Charts II - IX set out the breakdown of the individual departments one by one. These tables are believed to be substantially complete and accurate although there is inevitably some uncertainty in the allocation of staff among the lower subdivisions because the actual set-up is continually changing as progress is made and tasks re-allotted. The total staff on October 21st was probably between one and two thousand, of whom two or three hundred were engineers and scientists.

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3. THE SCOPE OF THE ORGANIZATION.

It is clear from the charts that Valve design remains one of the major items, with an emphasis on the manufacturing side. A considerable number of workers is also engaged on signals problems, although from the charts, the nature of the signals programme is not evident. Further information is, however, available which gives some idea of the scope of the work.

The work on valve development and manufacture seems to be devoted to:-

a) The reproduction of important valve types used by the Germans, particularly those of Telefunken design.

b) The development of new types for special purposes.

c) The design of machinery for the mass production of the valves.

d) Complete planning for mass production of the valves.

e) In some cases, actual production on a fairly large scale.

Special attention has been given to high power transmitting valves of metal-ceramic construction, and those of magnetron type, for radar and communication work on the highest frequencies (down to wavelengths of 8 millimeters).

There is no evidence of the existence of any other Institute under Russian control carrying out similar work on the design and planning for manufacture of specialised modern types of valves, although there is some work going on in other valve plants in Germany and Russia, and some development of cathode ray tubes and similar devices for television and other work is carried out in an establishment at Arnstadt (Thüringia). It may well be, therefore, that the work of the O.S.W. in this field is fundamental to the whole Soviet effort in ultra-high frequency communication and radar techniques.

The signals programme is believed to include work on such projects as Radar, Decimeter wave communication systems, Direction finding, Radio Navigational aids, and High power transmitters for various purposes. A great deal of this work is duplicated in other Institutes, and although it is of considerable importance, the work of the O.S.W. is probably not of such unique importance as it is in the matter of valve design and manufacture.

The valve section also devotes attention to cathode ray tubes for Radar, Television, etc., and to X-ray tubes and other devices.

4. DEPORTATIONS TO RUSSIA

There is evidence that at various times during 1946, valves and valve making machines were sent to Russia. Rumours of the moves of technicians prior to October have also been heard, but not substantiated. The first major move of personnel to Russia took place as part of the large scale deportations on October 21/22 1946.

It is not easy to discern clearly the policy followed in

the depertations of O.S.W. workers. In the attached charts, the names of those known to have been deported are marked X, those believed to have been marked for deportation, or actually deported, but who escaped deportation en route with an (X) and those not deported with an +. It will be seen that those deported seem to have been picked in a somewhat haphazard way and it cannot be stated that any particular section or sections were marked for deportation.

The position is made more difficult by the insufficiency of evidence concerning the large number of workers who were probably marked for deportation but succeeded in evading it. There is a further difficulty since the number of ancilliary, and particularly of workshop staffs, attached to the various branches, and the proportions of these staffs earmarked for deportation, are not known. If interrogation of those remaining in Berlin enables us to specify more accurately which workers were intended for deportation and which were not, it may become possible to obtain a clearer idea of the Russian intentions.

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LIST OF RUSSIANS IDENTIFIED IN CONNECTION WITH THE O.S.W.

BERG	Vice-Admiral	In Moscow: concerned with the deportations of German technicians to Russia, and previously identified in connection with recruiting of German scientists. Probably Engineer Vice Admiral A.J. Berg, corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences; a specialist in Radio engineering.
BOLDYR	Lt.Col.	Technical supervisor of O.S.W. Described as a physicist. Reported to have flown to Russia after the October deportations and to have met with a fatal accident en route.
BOGOLJUBOV	Major	Responsible for provision of raw materials at O.S.W.
DEVYATKOV	Major	Said to be remaining at O.S.W. after the October deportations.
GLICKMANN	Lt.Col.	Was at O.S.W. for a time with Lt. SUTORMIN to study decimetre wave communications equipment. Now believed to be working on this in U.S.S.R. Described as an excellent technician.
KATZMANN	Col.	
KOBSIK	Major	An engineer: specialist in Tungsten and Molybdenum.
OLENIN	Major	Said to be remaining at O.S.W. after the October deportations.
POTGORSKI	Major	An engineer: Said to be remaining at O.S.W. after the O.S.W. deportations.
REDENS	Captain	
SUTORMIN	Lt.	Was at O.S.W. for a time with Lt.Col. GLICKMANN to study decimetre wave communications equipment. Now believed to be working on this in U.S.S.R. Described as an excellent technician.
TSCHEREPKIN	Major	An engineer: Said to be remaining at O.S.W. after the October deportations.
TSCHERKASOV	Captain	
TSCHOKIN	Captain	Naval officer interested in the work of O.S.W.
WILDGRUBE	Major	Administrative head of O.S.W.
WORONKOV	Captain	An expert in machine construction.

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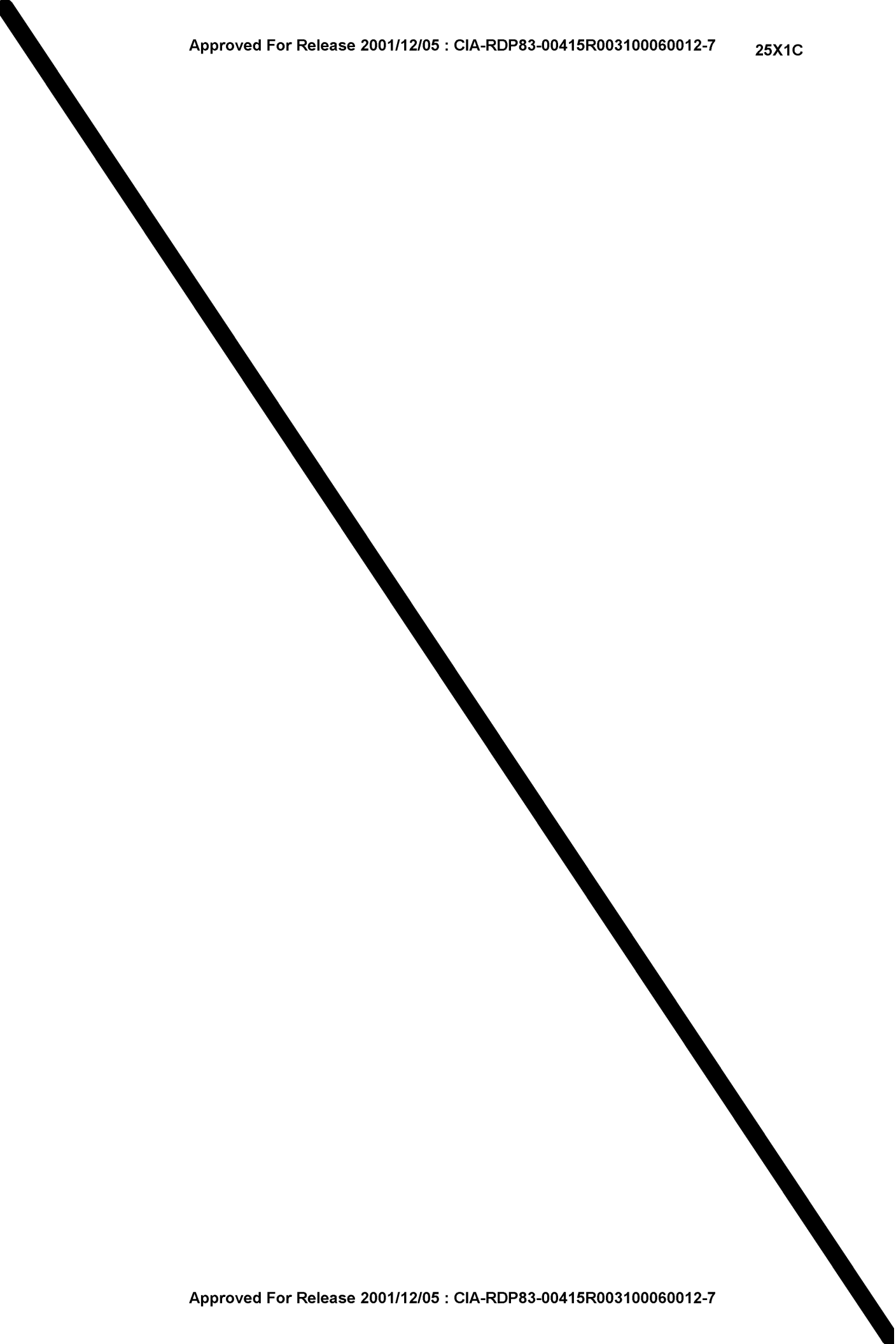

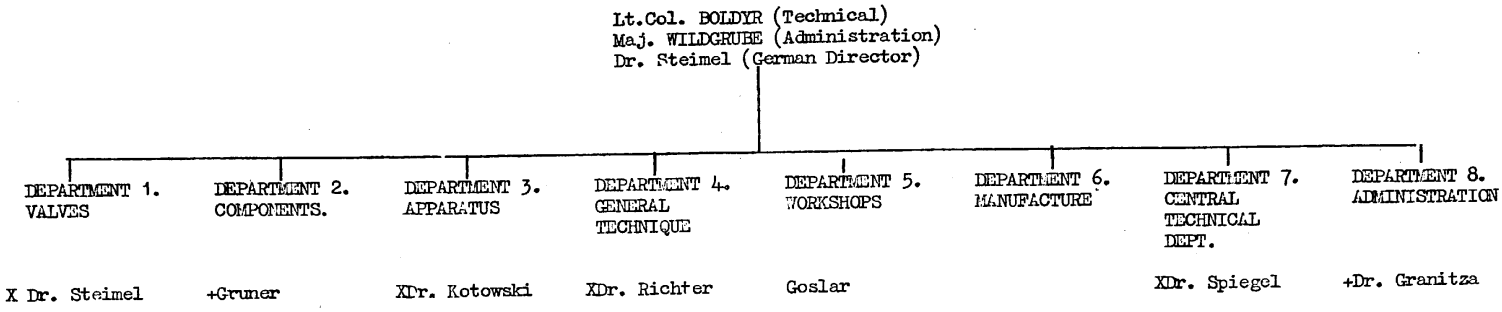

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Note: In all charts the following symbols preceding names signify:-

X Known to have been deported.
(X) Believed intended for deportation but still in Germany.
\+ Not deported.

CHART I

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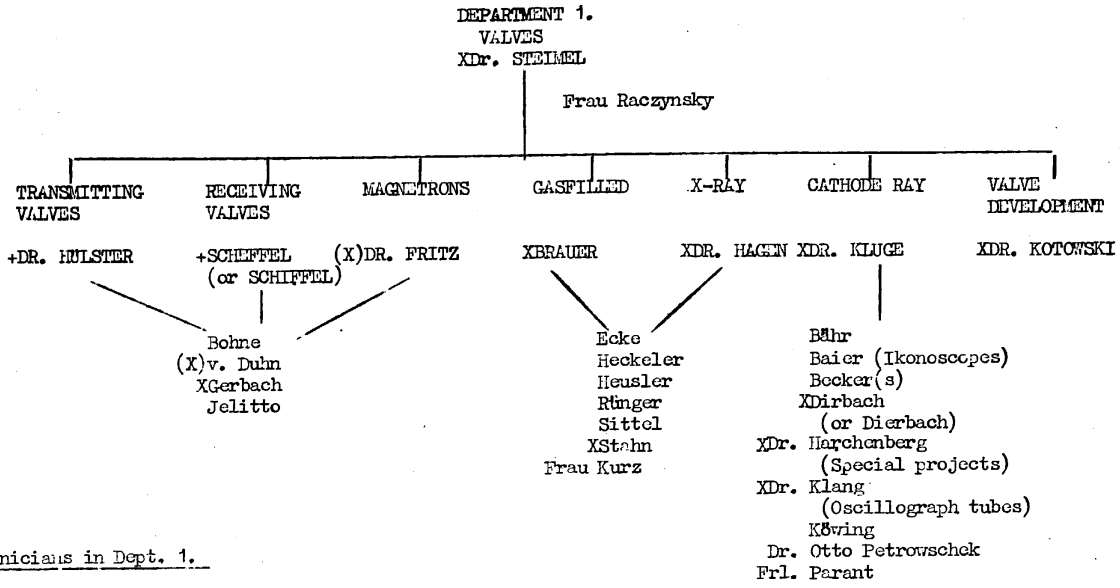

Technicians in Dept. 1.

X Dyadow
X Wiener
X Dittel
X Ziegenhagen
X Pfeifer

CHART II

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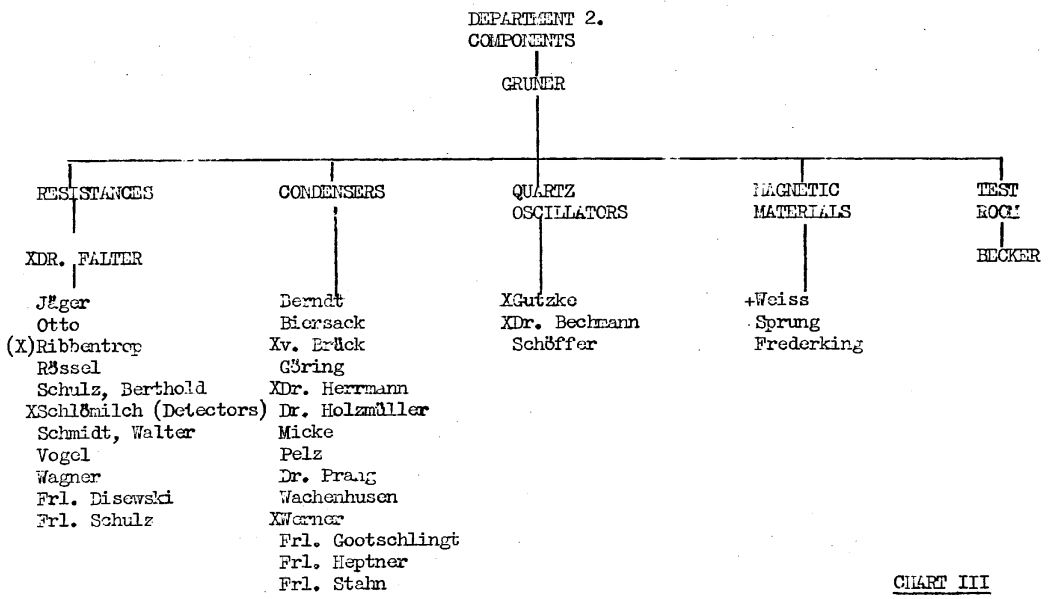


CHART III

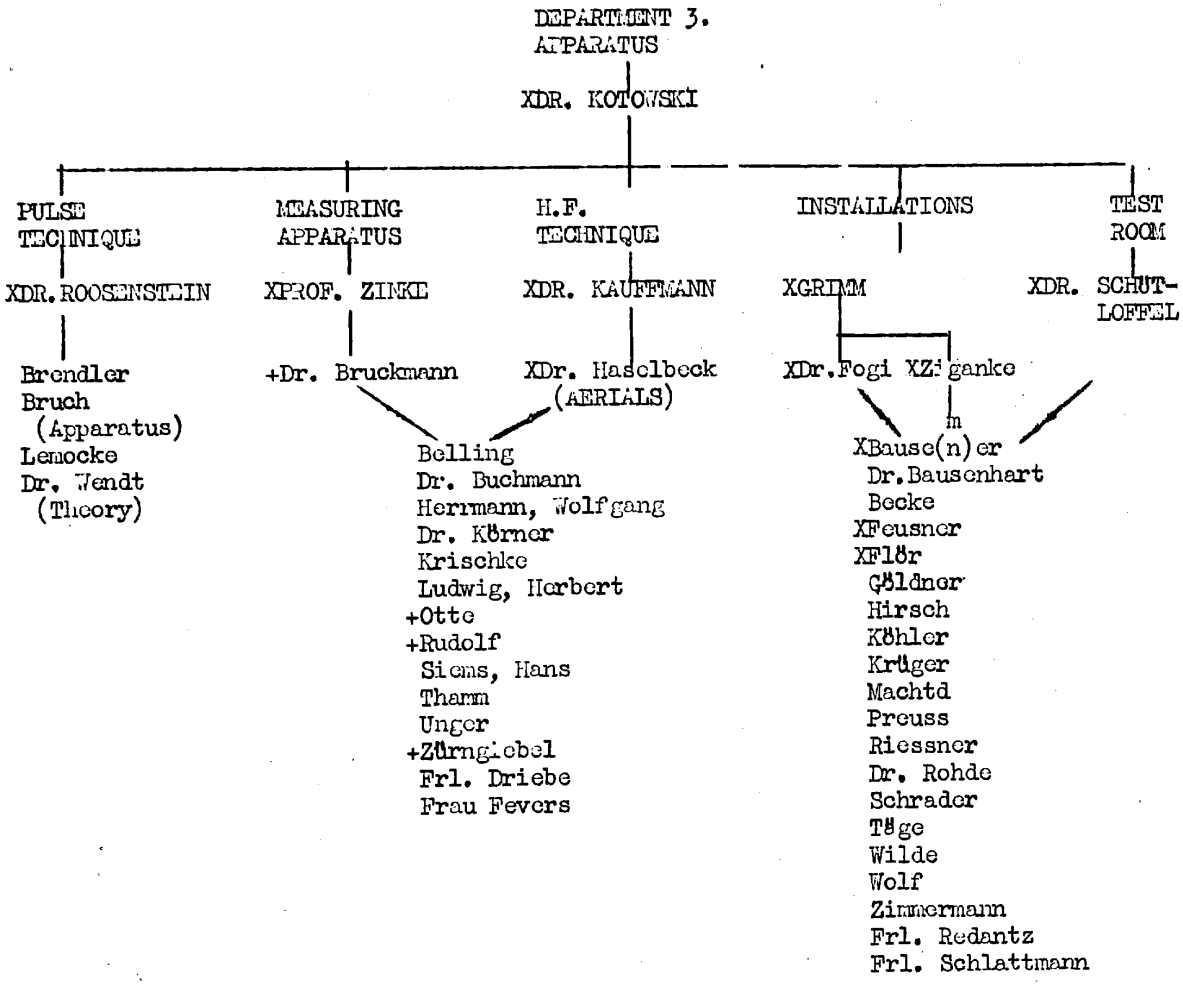


CHART IV

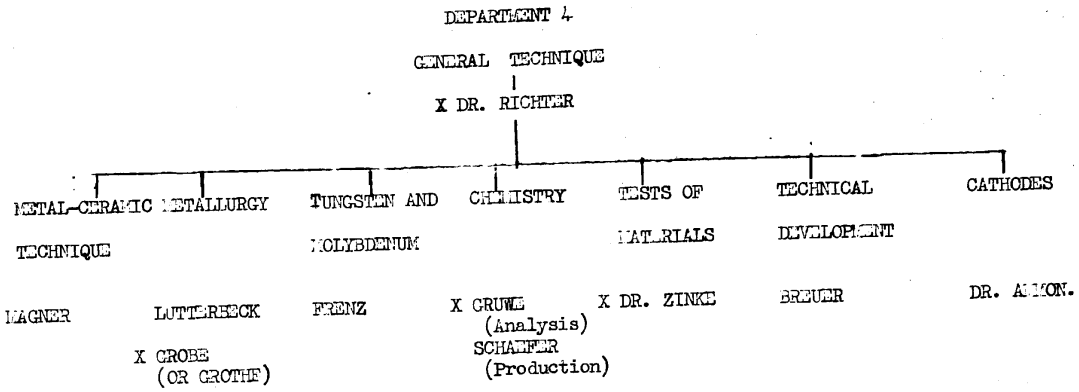
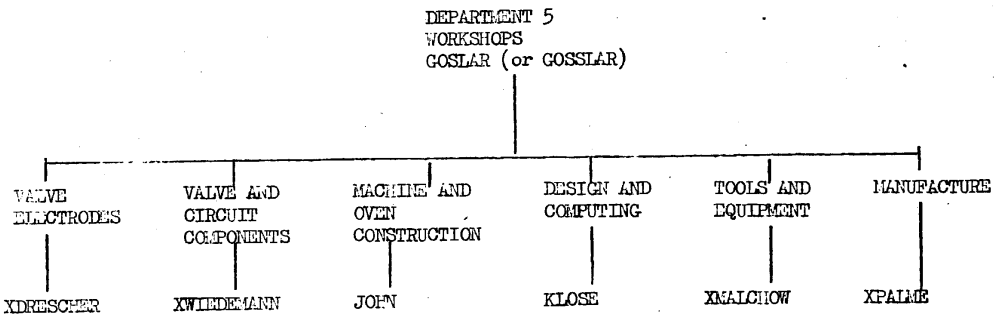


CHART V.



Bülke
Fischer, Helmut
Graczkowski
Hermann, Gerhard
Mettke
Müller
Rabe
Seifert
Schön
Stolle
+Wackerow
Wetzel
Frau Krenz

CHART VI

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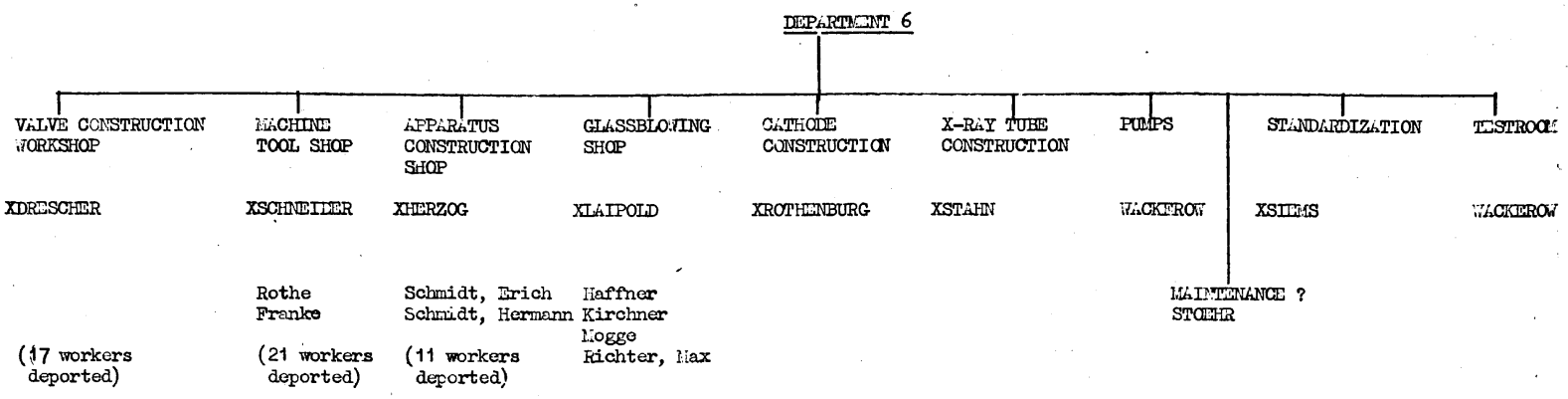

Other Technicians in this Dept.
X Schön
X Kobe
X Zimmermann
X Hasse
X Marchner
X Foerster
X Simon
X Runge

CHART VII

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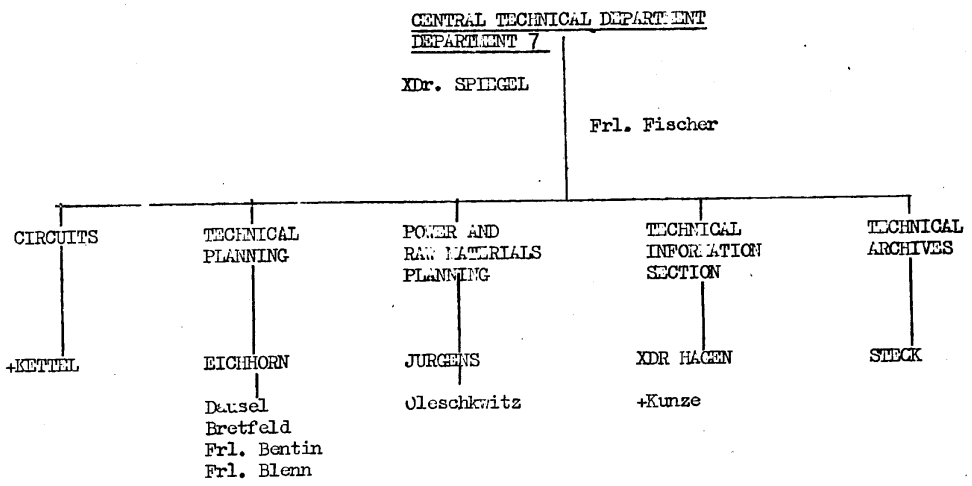

CHART VIII

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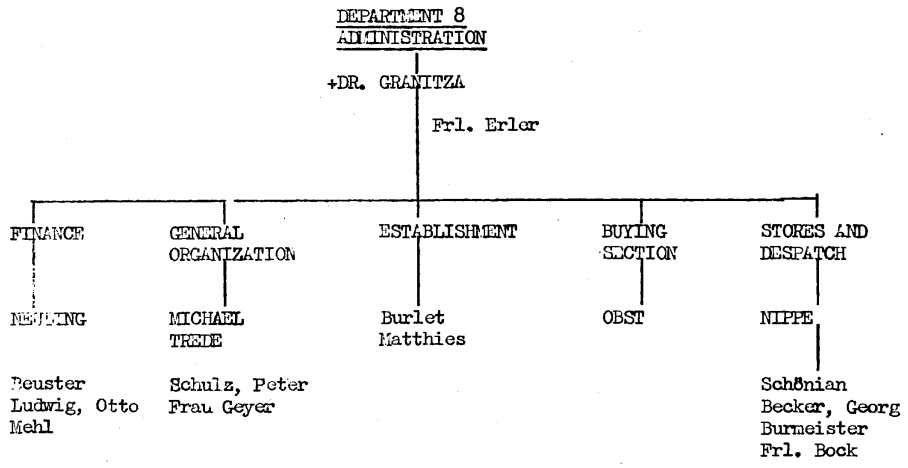

CHART IX

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